

## 5 types of intro beginnings:

1. historical review
2. anecdotal
3. surprising statement
4. famous person
5. declarative

**historical review:** Steinbeck's classic novel, *Of Mice and Men*, is set against the classic backdrop of the Great Depression, the Crash of 1929, and the Dust Bowl. These significant events in the United States helped to shape the lives of the main characters in this novel, just as the effects of loneliness, loyalty, and courage have shaped the person I have become.

**anecdotal:** I remember the day that Mrs. Lock, my ELA teacher, handed me a little book entitled *Of Mice and Men*, and I thought to myself, "Here's another dumb book I am forced to read that will have absolutely nothing to do with my life."

**surprising statement:** *Of Mice and Men* is one of the most frequently challenged books of the 21st century, yet it is one of the best books I have ever read. In fact, this little novella is a book that I am eager to reread.



**famous person:** John Steinbeck, the author of the American classic *Of Mice and Men*, is often on the short list of the best ever American authors. He was nominated for three Academy Awards for his writing and he won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1962. His stories often revolve around the troubles of unfortunate people stuck in a world that changed too fast for them. I, like George and Lennie, also feel that my world is moving too fast and that I am often involved in events that I have very little control over....

**declarative:** Killing. Violence. Swearing. Brothels. Racism. Sexism. Ageism. Yes, *Of Mice and Men*, the classic novel written by John Steinbeck in 1937, can offend just about anyone. However, just about everyone who carefully reads this small volume will also be affected by the amazingly human characters created by Steinbeck. I, too, felt many connections to the lives of these unforgettable characters: Lennie, George, and Curly's wife, and this novel has many parallels to my life in 2014.